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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 28 JULY 31, 2006

INSIDE

Two more coal miners die on job in Kentucky; year's toll 35

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Socialist Workers Party candidates in New York:

Stop bombing of Lebanon!

Israeli troops out! No to U.S. support for Tel Aviv



AP/Lefteris Pitarakis



Getty Images/Bill Pugliano

Above: residents of Nabatiyeh, southern Lebanon, examine damage to market area from July 19 Israeli bombing.
Left: Some 10,000 people rally July 18 in Dearborn, Michigan, the heart of Detroit's Arab-American community, to protest Israeli attack on Lebanon. They chanted, "Stop the bombing! Stop the war!"

The following statement was issued July 18 by Róger Calero and Maura DeLuca, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senate and New York governor, respectively.

The Socialist Workers campaign joins with others protesting the Israeli government's murderous assaults on Lebanon and Gaza, as well as Washington's support for this aggression. Tel Aviv must stop its bombing of Lebanon, end

STATEMENT BY SWP CANDIDATES

its attack on Palestinians in Gaza, and withdraw all its troops—now. It must free the more than 8,000 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners it is holding.

We also call for an end to the escalating U.S.-led threats against Iran and Syria, and for the immediate pullout of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many working people have felt revulsion at scenes broadcast worldwide of the

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Israeli military expands its murderous assault on Lebanon

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

July 19—For the fifth time in the last 30 years the Israeli government has launched a massive assault on the people of Lebanon, its neighbor to the north. In the course of the first week of the attack, which began July 12, Israeli forces have killed more than 300 people, Agence France-Presse reported.

Tel Aviv has ordered its military to bomb the Beirut airport, establish a full naval blockade, and destroy hundreds of roads and bridges on the pretext of forcing the Lebanese group Hezbollah to release two Israeli soldiers it has captured.

Israeli ground forces also entered southern Lebanon July 17 and again today. Government officials described the ground invasion as "brief," the Associated Press reported.

The Israeli security cabinet decided there would be "no time limit" on its offensive there and in Gaza and confirmed its objective of removing Hezbollah forces from the border area.

With a green light from Washington, the Israeli rulers are taking advantage of the U.S.-led "war on terrorism" in the Middle East to advance their goal of defeating armed opponents of their

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Security Council imposes sanctions on north Korea

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution July 15 condemning north Korea for testing several ballistic missiles 10 days earlier, and imposed sanctions on its government.

The resolution, promoted by Washington and its imperialist allies, especially Tokyo, intensifies threats against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). It requires all UN member states to stop the import and export of materials or any funding that can be linked to north Korea's missile

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30,000 march in Chicago for legalization of immigrants

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

CHICAGO, July 19—Some 30,000 people, mostly workers, marched downtown here today to demand legalization of all immigrants. The action followed two massive earlier protests in this city, on March 10 and May 1. In face of recent increased government attacks on immigrant workers, protesters today also demanded an end to immigration raids and a moratorium on deportations.

Chants of *Sí se puede* (Yes we can), and "We are not criminals," rang through the streets and could be heard blocks away, as well as the chant "USA, USA," which some of the organizers promoted.

Former employees of IFCO Systems, a pallet manufacturer, were prominent in the march. Twenty-six of them were arrested in an immigration raid here a

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Women's rights backers defend abortion clinic in Mississippi

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

JACKSON, Mississippi—"The clinic opened today and will remain open for women in Mississippi," said Michele Colon, president of the Jackson Area National Organization for Women (NOW), speaking to more than 200 people at Smith Park in downtown Jackson July 15. The rally kicked off Reproductive Freedom Summer, a weeklong series of actions in defense of a woman's right to choose abortion.

The women's rights supporters outnumbered the 30–40 members of Operation Save America, a group campaigning to make abortion a crime, who that day picketed the Jackson Women's Health Organization—the only abortion clinic that remains open in Mississippi—with the stated purpose of shutting it down.

Sponsors of Reproductive Freedom

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Supporters of socialist campaign join actions protesting imperialist wars in Mideast, make progress in ballot drives



Militant/Martín Koppel

Ben O'Shaughnessy (center), SWP candidate for New York lt. governor, joins July 18 rally protesting Israeli bombing.

NEW YORK

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK, July 18—"Our campaign joins with others here to demand the Israeli government stop its murderous assaults on Lebanon and on Palestinians in Gaza," said Róger Calero, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New York. He and other socialist campaigners took part in a rally here today in front of the Israeli mission to the United Nations to

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MASSACHUSETTS

BY BETSY FARLEY

BOSTON, July 16—"The U.S. rulers' support for the deadly Israeli bombardment of Lebanon is just an extension of their policy at home—their drive to cut the social wage and make workers and farmers pay for the capitalist crisis," said Laura Garza, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Massachusetts' 8th Congressional District. Garza was the featured speaker

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Also Inside:

Mississippi clinic defense

Continued from front page

Summer here include the Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union, Feminist Majority, UNITY Mississippi, and NOW. Other organizations have sent delegations, mostly from surrounding states, to participate.

Operation Save America, formerly Operation Rescue, is organizing a "siege" of the clinic July 15–22. "Mississippi could become the first abortion-free state in our country," said Philip Benhan, head of the rightist group.

The Jackson Women's Health Organization, which opened in 1995, treats about 4,000 patients a year.

Christie Swatzill, 28, who volunteers at Planned Parenthood, drove here from Memphis with friend Chellie Bowman to participate in the women's rights action. "I came because abortion is a fundamental right for women," said Swatzill. "Wealthy women will always be able to have an abortion. Banning abortion will affect poor and minority women."

Shavondra Washington and Lasonja Johnson are both 13 years old. They came from Ruleville and Sunflower, Mississippi, respectively. "Only the woman should decide what to do with her own body," Washington told the *Militant.*

"At home I got a room full of women supporting me being here," said Tiffine Jones, 26, a telecommunications worker and member of Communications Workers of America Local 3570 in Jackson. "If they close the clinic, what are the girls in Clarksdale, Greenwood, up in the Delta going to do?"

Kim Gandy, national president of NOW, spoke at the rally. "I remember when women didn't have a choice," she began. "They just went away to an aunt or cousin and years later you learned what happened to them," she said, referring to back-alley and botched abortions. "We are not going back to that again."

Carolyn Townes, a social worker in Jackson attending the rally, said she was a part of the 1993 fight against Operation Rescue here. "We were well-organized," she said. "We escorted women to their appointments by car, delivering them right to the clinic away from Operation Rescue. The doctors performed medical treatments uninterrupted."

Several clinics in the state have closed over the past decade.

Halfway through the July 15 action, police forced protesters to evacuate the park, saying there had been a bomb threat. Jackson police chief Tyrone Lewis later said that a "suspicious package" dropped in a trash can was not an "explosive device," *USA Today* reported.

Nine opponents of a woman's right to choose abortion have been arrested so far by Jackson police, according to the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger.* Charges included obstructing traffic, disorderly conduct, and assembling on a public sidewalk without a city permit. The same laws are being used against the pro-choice protesters.

On July 17, about 100 supporters of Operation Save America gathered on the steps of the Mississippi State House to sign an "Emancipation Proclamation" of unborn fetuses.

"These babies need to be emancipated from those that want to shed their innocent blood," said Ronnie Wallace, a minister from North Carolina. "Susan Hill is killing Black babies," he said, referring to the owner of the abortion clinic here.

Seventy-two percent of women who obtain abortions in Mississippi are Black.

"I have met hundreds of women at the abortion mill that have regretted getting abortions," said Christian Sugar, 18, who came from Charlotte, North Carolina, as a part of Operation Save America. "Why should the child pay for the sins of its parents?" her 23-year-old sister Danielle Sugar added.



Militant/Emily Paul

July 15 rally in Jackson, Mississippi, to defend a woman's right to choose abortion.

Many of the 40 people who gathered at the pro-choice protest across the State House lawn July 17 disagreed. "The fact that they are calling this an 'Emancipation Proclamation' is a complete insult to my history," said Shawna Davie, 22, a coordinator of the Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Project. "I don't want my history to be trivialized," she said, referring to the struggle for Black freedom.

Mississippi currently has some of the most stringent restrictions on abortion in the United States. Women are required to receive counseling and then wait for 24 hours before getting an abortion. Those younger than 18 have to obtain consent from both parents. State law also bars women from having an abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy. Because this is the only clinic in the state, many women have to drive hundreds of miles to get here, taking days off work to do so. Women's rights supporters are organizing a march July 22 to the Capitol to culminate their activities. Protesters will gather near the Mississippi State Fairgrounds on Jefferson and High streets at 10:00 a.m. and then march downtown.

Dave Ferguson from Birmingham and Lisa Potash from Atlanta contributed to this article.

Librarians protest book ban by Miami-Dade school board

BY BERNIE SENTER

MIAMI—The Miami-Dade School Board voted June 14 to ban the children's book, *A Visit to Cuba,* and its Spanish-language version, *Vamos a Cuba,* from school libraries. The cover of the book pictures smiling Cuban youth wearing uniforms of the Pioneers, which is affiliated with Cuba's Communist Party.

In a column published in the July 8 *Miami Herald,* school board member Frank Bolaños said, "Taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill for entrenched and misguided bureaucrats who want to whitewash the horrors of life under Castro and his brutal regime." He was referring to the government of Cuba headed by President Fidel Castro.

The book is part of a series published by Heinemann Library, a division of Harcourt Education. It is geared to five- to seven-year-old students. It is one in a 24-part series depicting life for children in countries like Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, England, Greece, Israel, Japan, and Vietnam. The covers of most of these books are similarly adorned with pictures of smiling children. The school board voted to remove the entire series.

Shortly after the board's decision, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit challenging the ban and a federal judge told the school board the ban is on hold until a hearing is held.

Cuban librarians have protested the ban. "It's outrageous the Miami school libraries would prohibit the presence of *Vamos a Cuba* because it shows the truth about how our children live," librarian Margarita Bellas Vilarino told *Juventud Rebelde*, a Cuban daily published by the Union of Young Communists.

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New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.
Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.
Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Elections in Mexico reflect class tensions

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

In Mexico's July 2 presidential elections, Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN) narrowly edged out Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). The former Mexico City mayor lost by 244,000 votes, a 0.6 percent margin. Charging fraud, López Obrador has demanded a vote-by-vote recount, filed a court challenge, and mobilized his supporters in the streets.

The conservative PAN is now the largest party in Congress, with 206 out of 500 seats—41 percent—compared with 124 for the PRD, a capitalist party that promotes social-democratic-type policies. The biggest loser was the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which fell from first to third place, with 104 seats. The PRI was the ruling party for seven decades until 2000, when Vicente Fox of the PAN was elected president. Since then the PRI continued to dominate Congress, blocking several of Fox's initiatives.

The federal electoral tribunal must review the PRD complaint and name a president-elect by September 6.

The PRD organized demonstrations of 300,000 supporters on July 8 and of 1 million on July 16 in Mexico City's Zócalo square, where López Obrador urged "passive civil resistance" and called for a recount. He has claimed election irregularities and alleged that pro-Calderón business groups ran "subliminal propaganda" TV ads against him.

Last year, as mayor of the capital, he led a march of 400,000 that pushed back an attempt to impeach him on a technicality that would have barred him from running for president.

Underlying the electoral dispute are the sharpening class tensions in Mexico.



AP/Marco Ugarte

Tens of thousands of striking teachers and supporters march June 16 in Oaxaca, southern Mexico, to protest cop assault on their *plantón* (sit-in) in city square. Battles by copper miners and teachers have been flashpoints in Mexican politics.

Different class realities

For capitalists in Mexico, "the economy is doing great," Rafael Camarena of the Santander Central Hispano bank told Bloomberg News July 13. Industrial output rose 5.7 percent from a year ago. Auto production jumped 31 percent.

The reality is different, however, for most working people in Mexico. Millions of workers make the minimum wage of $4.50 a day or even less—and the minimum wage has lost 73 percent of its purchasing power since 1988.

These conditions have driven millions to migrate in search of jobs from southern Mexico to the industrialized areas of the north as well as to the United States. Last year Mexican immigrants in the United States sent home a record $20 billion, the country's biggest source of foreign income after oil exports.

On July 14 government authorities approved Grupo México's request to shut down the giant La Caridad copper mine in the northern state of Sonora, tear up its union contract, fire all 2,000 miners, and reopen with new personnel. The company said it sought to end a three-month strike protesting the removal of the miners' national union president, which the labor ministry carried out under the pretext of combating corruption. Miners have also been on strike since June at the nearby Cananea copper mine.

In the city of Oaxaca in southern Mexico, cops fought a running battle June 14 with thousands of striking teachers who were engaged in a *plantón* (sit-in) in the central plaza since mid-May to fight for better wages. Two days later, tens of thousands of unionists and students marched in that state capital to protest the assault. The 60,000 teachers, members of Local 22 of the National Education Workers Union (SNTE), returned to work July 10 but have continued their mobilizations.

Protests have taken place across Mexico against a police assault in May on demonstrators in San Salvador de Atenco, a town near Mexico City that has been a focal point of land struggles. The protesters were resisting an attempt to evict flower vendors. More than 200 people were arrested and two killed in the police attack.

Few fundamental differences

Despite the heated electoral rhetoric, there are few major differences in policies between the main capitalist parties. "They are not so much at odds on the country's broad needs and goals," a July 9 *New York Times* article noted.

Calderón, a former energy minister, is expected to continue the "free-market" policies of the Fox administration. He has said he will introduce a new, lower flat tax, according to the Reuters news agency. Calderón has also advocated beefing up the police and creating a new federal antinarcotics police agency.

The PRD was founded in 1989 by dissident leaders of the long-ruling PRI. A number of small radical organizations, including the Communist Party (PSUM), dissolved themselves into the PRD.

PRD leader López Obrador served as mayor of Mexico City from 2000 to 2005. Like the PRI politicians before him, López Obrador's policies included funding for welfare programs, intended to undercut independent mass struggles. He coupled such measures, popular among the most impoverished, with an "anticrime" police crackdown. Last year he invited former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani to Mexico City as a "consultant" for the police.

The PRD's presidential campaign slogan was "For the good of all, the poor first." López Obrador, professing concern for devastated farmers, said he would renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, and promised to spend more on federal poverty programs.

Foreign investors are hoping that, if he takes office, Calderón will take steps toward privatizing the state-owned Pemex oil company. Without a PAN majority in Congress, however, that goal "will most likely continue to lag," an opinion column in the July 10 *New York Sun* pointed out.

Tel Aviv launches massive assault on Lebanon

Continued from front page

power in the region. "We want to put Hezbollah out of business. We want to force the Lebanese government to take responsibility and deploy [its army] along the border and dismantle Hezbollah," said Brig. Gen. Ido Nehushtan of the Israeli general staff, according to the July 14 *New York Times.*

At the same time and without a pause, Tel Aviv continued to press its three-week-old assault in the Gaza Strip, where it has killed about 95 Palestinians, according to the director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. An Israeli helicopter fired a missile July 14 into the north Gaza offices of several legislators belonging to Hamas, the governing party in the Palestinian Authority, according to the Lebanese *Daily Star.* Artillery and naval units continue to pound the Palestinian territory with the stated goal of freeing an Israeli soldier captured June 25 by armed Palestinian groups inside Israel, near the border with Gaza.

The Palestinian organizations and Hezbollah say they will only return the Israeli soldiers in exchange for the release of some of the 8,000 Palestinians held prisoner by Tel Aviv. The Israeli government has said it refuses to negotiate.

Just as Tel Aviv has assassinated many of the top Hamas leaders over the last two years, it is now targeting Hezbollah officials and its supporters based in southern Lebanon and the predominantly Shiite areas south of Beirut.

"Reports indicate that there are now half a million refugees as a result of the Israeli bombings in the south as well as the southern suburbs of Beirut," Bashar Abu-Sayfan, a Palestinian refugee in Beirut, told the *Militant* in a phone interview July 17. "What has been encouraging is that close to 200,000 people have been put up in schools, churches, and monasteries in Christian areas. This is an example of human solidarity." He said 11 people forced from their homes are now living in his one-bedroom apartment.

The Israeli assault

On the morning of July 13, Tel Aviv unleashed artillery fire, air strikes, and a naval bombardment on about 40 sites in southern Lebanon. It was the Israeli government's first military action inside Lebanon since its withdrawal from the country in 2000, which ended two decades of occupation. Tel Aviv said the assault was in response to Hezbollah forces firing missiles earlier that day at armored patrols on the Israeli side of the border. The Israeli military said that of seven soldiers in two jeeps, three were killed, two wounded, and two captured.

Israeli warplanes then fired missiles at the Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut, and near the Lebanon-Syria border, threatening to broaden the war beyond Lebanon. "We place full responsibility for this crisis on Syria and Iran," said Isaac Herzog, a member of Israel's security cabinet. "We are not ruling out any operation, and we will not forget who is responsible."

Israeli forces imposed a sea, air, and land blockade, making it difficult for anyone to escape from the continued Israeli bombardment. On July 15 the Israeli military began attacks on the ports of Beirut and Tripoli, Reuters reported. The BBC said that at least 13 Lebanese civilians were killed in one Israeli air strike as a convoy sought to flee the southern region.

Since the Israeli assault began Hezbollah has reportedly fired some 1,000 rockets into Israel, a fraction of the total it is estimated to possess. On July 14 a Hezbollah missile hit an Israeli warship 15 miles off Lebanon's coast. Three Israeli soldiers were reported missing. Eight Israelis were killed July 16 when Haifa—Israel's third-largest city—was hit by such rockets.

Combat between Israeli and Lebanese

Continued on page 4

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

MINNESOTA
St. Paul

Defend Abortion Rights. No to "Operation Save America." Panel discussion. Fri., July 28. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. 113 Bernard St. E. Tel.: (651) 644-6325.

NEW YORK
Manhattan

Stop the Bombing of Lebanon! Israeli Troops Out Now! Oppose Washington's Support to Assault by Tel Aviv! Panel of speakers. Fri., July 28. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. 307 W. 36th St. 10th fl. (near 8th Ave.; take north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

CANADA
Toronto

The Fight for Full Redress of the Anti-Chinese Head Tax. Fri., July 28. Speaker: Annette Kouri, Communist League. Movie showing: "In the Shadow of Gold Mountain." Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201. Tel.: (416) 535-9140.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK
Manhattan

Celebrate July 26th! Stand with Internationalist Cuba and in Solidarity with Venezuela and Bolivia. Representatives of Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia and others. Sat., July 29. Reception/Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. $5 donation; $10 with dinner. *SEIU/1199 Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center. 310 W. 43 St. (between 8th and 9th Aves.). Sponsored by a coalition of dozens of organizations.*

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia

Picket for Antonio Camacho Negrón, Puerto Rican political prisoner. Sat., Aug 5. 12:00 p.m. *Federal Detention Center. 700 Arch St. Sponsored by Pro-Libertad Freedom Campaign.*

U.S. coal miner in Australia speaks on union fight

BY ALASDAIR MACDONALD

SYDNEY, Australia—"We gained confidence every time we stood up to the bosses," said Alyson Kennedy, speaking July 7 with workers from Primo, a large meatpacking plant here, at an after-work meeting. Discussion went on for a couple of hours about the lessons of the three-year fight by workers at the Co-Op mine in Utah for representation by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

Kennedy is a veteran underground coal miner and leader of the fight for a union at Co-Op. Her visit here was hosted by supporters of the Militant Fighting Fund, which raised money for the *Militant* newspaper to defend itself in a harassment lawsuit by C.W. Mining, the owners of the Co-Op mine, and publicized the fight of other defendants, which included the UMWA and 16 individual miners. The coal bosses filed the suit in September 2004, charging the miners, the UMWA, and others with defamation and other charges. In May, C.W. Mining reached a settlement with the defendants, agreeing to drop its suit and give back pay to several miners who had been fired for union activity. On July 6, a federal judge in Utah signed an order dismissing the suit "with prejudice," which means the company cannot refile its case.

"When we received messages of support from as far away as New Zealand and Australia people really stood up and took notice," said Kennedy, speaking to a July 8 meeting at the hall of the Communications Electrical and Plumbing Union (CEPU). Kennedy focused her remarks on how the miners and their supporters defeated the bosses' retaliatory suit.

She also described how the fight for safe job conditions and livable pay and dignity developed among the miners, most of whom are from Mexico, and the impact of the huge working-class mobilizations for immigrant rights in the United States this year.

At the beginning of the July 8 meeting participants were welcomed by Ian McCarthy, the New South Wales (NSW) branch secretary of the communications division of CEPU. McCarthy is an endorser of the Militant Fighting Fund.

Messages of solidarity were read from unionists and other supporters of the Militant Fighting Fund who could not attend. Andrew Ferguson, NSW state secretary of the construction division of the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union sent a message of congratulations to the Co-Op miners for defeating the boss lawsuit. He wrote, "Your victory was a win for all workers fighting for union rights. These types of struggles inspire other workers to fight."

Participants donated $1,100 toward the cost of Kennedy's trip.

While here, Kennedy also met unionists and others who had endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund to thank them for their support. Craig Bulley, the producer and presenter on Workers Radio, a morning radio show sponsored by several trade unions, was among them. Kennedy was interviewed on the program July 7, and spoke on another Spanish-language radio show as well.

The U.S. coal miner also met and exchanged experiences with dockworkers, members of the Maritime Union of Australia at Port Botany; and with Lorissa Stevens, a young underground coal miner recently fired for refusing to sign an individual contract with her boss. (See "Miner in Australia fights firing" in last week's issue.)



Militant/Linda Harris

Lorissa Stevens, left, a coal miner fired for refusing to sign a nonunion individual contract, with Alyson Kennedy in Sydney.

Israeli regime expands its assault on Lebanon

Continued from page 3

government forces broke out for the first time over the July 15–16 weekend when the Lebanese army fired at an Israeli jet, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. On July 17 Israeli forces killed at least nine Lebanese soldiers in an attack on two bases along the northern coast.

Hezbollah isolated

The Israeli rulers have faced little opposition worldwide to their military onslaught. The U.S. representative at the United Nations vetoed a UN resolution calling on Tel Aviv to halt its attack in Gaza. In reference to the invasion of Lebanon, "The best way to stop the violence is for Hezbollah to lay down its arms," U.S. president George Bush told the press July 15, while in Russia for the meeting of the Group of 8. "I call upon Syria to exert influence over Hezbollah."

A joint statement at the G8 summit—made up by the imperialist states of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States, plus Moscow—followed Washington's line. "The immediate crisis results from efforts by extremist forces to destabilize the region," said the statement. Refusing to demand an end to the assault on Lebanon, they called on Tel Aviv to "exercise utmost constraint."

Many governments in the Middle East have condemned the Israeli invasion and assault in the Gaza Strip. However, representatives of several governments in majority Arab countries have also charged that Hezbollah's actions were a source of the current conflict.

In a joint statement July 14, Jordan's King Abdullah and Egypt's president Hosni Mubarak warned of the risk of "the region being dragged into 'adventurism' that does not serve Arab interests." The same day, the official Saudi Arabian news agency SPA quoted Mohammad al-Zalfa, a member of the appointed Shura (consultative) Council, saying, "A distinction must be made between legitimate resistance and uncalculated adventures taken by elements inside Lebanon." Referring to Hezbollah without naming the group, he said its forces should "end the crisis they have created."

On the other hand, the Cuban Foreign Ministry issued a statement July 14 condemning "Israel's military aggression against Lebanon" and calling on Tel Aviv "to immediately put an end to such acts of barbarism."

The Associated Press reported July 15 that the governments of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain have quietly voiced similar criticisms of Hezbollah.

"Concern about some kind of Israeli troop landing in Beirut has led to young people getting arms and starting to form vigilance in neighborhoods," said Abu-Sayfan from Beirut. "This has also opened up a discussion on what we are fighting for. Some say we have to follow Hezbollah's lead, while others say they will fight against Israel but they will not support Hezbollah's, Iran's, or Syria's political agenda."

At an emergency meeting in Cairo of governments of predominantly Arab countries, Lebanese prime minister Fawzi Salloukh said, "Arab people will sooner or later take matters into their own hands if their governments do not find serious ways to give them hope."

Hezbollah is a capitalist party with two seats in the Lebanese cabinet. It has called for an "Islamic Republic" and gained substantial support in Lebanon because of its prominent role in the resistance to the Israeli occupation. Both the Iranian and Syrian governments back the group. Hezbollah's position in the country has been weakened over the last year with the withdrawal of some 14,000 Syrian troops as the result of both imperialist pressure on Damascus and a series of mass protests in Lebanon last year condemning decades-long intervention in the country by Syria's rulers.

On July 15 Lebanese prime minister Fuad Siniora gave a speech in which he expressed his willingness to accept the Israeli demand for Lebanon's army to replace Hezbollah forces on the southern border. Siniora said in exchange for an Israeli cease-fire, his government would "work to extend the state's authority over all its territories, in cooperation with the United Nations in southern Lebanon." About 2,000 UN troops have been stationed in the area since 1978.

Israeli officials say their assault could go on for weeks. "Lebanon is paying a very heavy price because of Hezbollah: bridges, roads, and airports destroyed—and it could yet be deprived of other infrastructure," Israeli Defense Forces chief of staff Dan Halutz told the press.

Georges Mehrabian in Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.

UN Security Council targets north Korea

Continued from front page

defense program.

China had said it would veto the measure if it included authorization to threaten military force under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. After 10 days of wrangling over the wording, sponsors of the resolution dropped this particular reference and China's representative joined in the final approval.

The resolution demands that Pyongyang "suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile program" and restore "a moratorium on missile launching." It requires UN member states to "prevent the procurement of missile or missile-related items, materials, goods, or technology being transferred to DPRK's missile or WMD [weapons of mass destruction] program." It also calls for preventing "the transfer of any financial resources" related to these programs.

The following day at its meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Group of Eight (G8)—the world's major imperialist powers in the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan, together with Russia—embraced the UN Security Council resolution. In its "Statement on Non-Proliferation" the G8 heads of state asserted that Pyongyang's launching of ballistic missiles "jeopardises peace, stability and security in the region and beyond."

Shortly after passage of the Security Council resolution, north Korea's UN ambassador, Pak Gil Yon, said in a statement that the DPRK "totally rejects" the resolution. "The DPRK's exercise of its legitimate right as a sovereign state is neither bound to any international law nor to bilateral or multilateral agreements," he said. "As for the moratorium on long-range missile test-fire, which the DPRK agreed to with the U.S. in 1999, it was valid only when the DPRK-U.S. dialogue was under way."

Pak Gil Yon said the DPRK has good reason to develop missiles for self-defense because Washington has classified north Korea "as part of an 'axis of evil' and a 'target of preemptive nuclear attack.'" In recent years, he said, Washington and Tokyo have imposed economic sanctions and pursued other punitive measures against Pyongyang despite agreements reached at the six-party talks involving Beijing, Moscow, Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul. Far from being a "provocation" and a destabilizing factor in the area, missile development by the DPRK serves "as a key to keeping the balance of force and preserving peace and stability in Northeast Asia," he said.

It would also have been "quite foolish to notify Washington and Tokyo of the missile launches in advance, given that the U.S., which is technically at war with the DPRK, has threatened…that it would intercept the latter's missile in collusion with Japan.

"We would like to ask the U.S. and Japan if they had ever notified the DPRK of their ceaseless missile launches in the areas close to it," said Pak.

"If there are no more exercises designed to disturb the peace in the region, there could be no missile launches," DPRK deputy foreign minister Kim Hyong Jun told the media July 11. He was referring to the month-long military exercises Washington is conducting in the area through the end of July. This is in addition to the 30,000 U.S. troops currently stationed in south Korea. "As a sovereign state, we have to defend and safeguard our independent rights," Kim said.

In response to north Korea's rejection of the resolution, U.S. ambassador to the UN John Bolton told the press that "The United States and other Member States have the opportunity at any point to return to the Council for further action."

ON THE PICKET LINE

Teamsters to unionize former Overnite through card checks

At the recent Teamsters International Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada, union president James Hoffa announced June 27 that United Parcel Service (UPS) has agreed to a card check procedure to decide union representation for its transportation subsidiary, UPS Freight. Previously called Overnite Transportation, the company was bought by UPS last August. Overnite employed about 17,000 workers and resisted unionization efforts for years, including through a three-year strike that ended October 2002. Under card check procedure, once a majority of workers at UPS Freight sign union cards, UPS will recognize all workers in this subsidiary as being Teamster members. They would join the 200,000 union members at UPS represented by the Teamsters.

—Brian Williams

Coal miners in Colombia end month-long strike

Some 3,500 coal miners on strike against Drummond Co. in Colombia ended their month-long walkout in late June. The company agreed to a new contract at the La Loma mining complex in the northeastern part of the South American country. According to Omar Estupian, president of the Colombian energy workers union, the workers were demanding a substantial raise over their current $3-an-hour average, safer working conditions, and improved benefits, the *Birmingham News* reported. The company stated that both sides agreed to a 12 percent pay raise. Drummond, which is based in Birmingham, Alabama, is also being sued in a U.S. District Court for the deaths of three union organizers near the company's mines in Colombia in 2001.

—Brian Williams

New Zealand: postal workers ban overtime in contract fight

AUCKLAND, New Zealand— In a fight for a new contract, postal workers have been refusing to work overtime. The company responded by suspending dozens of workers. The unionists, organized by the Postal Workers Federation unions (PWF), began the overtime ban after voting down the company's contract offer by a nine-to-one margin in early July. Their old contract expired at the end of June. The PWF represents 850 of around 2,100 such workers nationwide.



Militant/Earl Dennis

Postal workers picket against suspensions and for a new contract July 12 at busy intersection near New Zealand Post mail distribution center at Greenlane, close to central Auckland.

Union members are demanding a wage increase greater than the 4 percent rate of inflation and a five-day workweek instead of their present six-day schedule. They also oppose the unequal pay for new hires imposed in 2000 by New Zealand Post, a former government department. At the Greenlane depot, in the days following the suspensions and pickets, the company tried to clear the backlog of mail with scabs, but backed off when workers threatened strike action.

—Helen Mulrennan

Many mine emergency air devices are found defective

Two more coal miners die on the job in Kentucky, bringing year's toll to 35

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Kentucky mine safety officials announced July 7 that 119 emergency air packs being used in 174 mines in the state were defective and had to be replaced. Kentucky has about 10,000 underground coal miners, according to the Kentucky Coal Association.

The same day, another miner was killed on the job in western Kentucky. And another was killed in eastern Kentucky July 18, bringing this year's national death toll to 35 coal miners.

Kentucky governor Ernest Fletcher ordered a review of thousands of the devices after five miners were killed in a May 20 explosion at the Darby Mine No. 1 in Harlan County.

In an opinion column in the July 12 *Louisville Courier-Journal,* United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Cecil Roberts reiterated the union's call for the federal mine agency to begin systematic safety checks of the self-contained self-rescuer (SCSR) devices—as the emergency air packs are called—in every mine across the country.

In a July 10 letter, West Virginia mine safety officials instructed mine operators and contractors in that state to provide detailed information by August 15 on SCSRs being used by their employees.

The Associated Press also reported that the air pack used by one of 12 miners who died following a January 2 explosion at the Sago Mine in that state exceeded its expiration date perhaps by four months.

"The findings demonstrate how critical it is for immediate and more thorough testing of these units nationwide," Roberts wrote. Because the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has refused to do so, Roberts said the union has filed a suit to force MSHA to do its job.

UMWA communications director Phil Smith told the *Militant* that MSHA filed a motion in early July to dismiss the suit. "We are waiting for the judge to review the motions and a decision," he said.

William Caylor, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, said the findings are not alarming, even if they suggest that miners, companies, and inspectors need to check the devices frequently, reported the *Courier-Journal*. "I don't think it indicates a problem, no," Caylor said.

Paul Ledford, the sole survivor of the explosion at Darby Mine No. 1, initially said his self-rescuer failed after 10 minutes. He passed out twice trying to escape the mine before being rescued. Ledford said MSHA officials later told him that in the excitement he was breathing faster than the device could produce air.

Two miners died from the impact of that explosion. Three others died of carbon monoxide poisoning despite having put on their self-rescuers.

The July 10 letter from West Virginia's mine safety office says the agency requires mine owners to provide the make and serial number of SCSRs in use in their mines, date the device was put in service, inspection dates, names and certification of inspectors, and date and reason a device is removed for service.

Ira Gamm, a spokesman for the International Coal Group, which owns the Sago Mine, said the expiration date of the air pack being carried by one of 12 miners killed in the January 2 explosion was due to a typographical error, reported AP. Gamm said the master list maintained in the Sago Mine office showed the devices were made in August 1996, when it should have said August 1995.

Mine owners, and state and federal safety officials have tried to blame individual miners. Caylor, for example, said "regulators should put more weight on the 'behavior modification' of miners—changing bad, unsafe habits to prevent future disasters," according to AP.

West Virginia acting mine safety chief James Dean said the expired air pack shows the need for better training of miners, who are responsible for inspecting their own air pack each day.

Dean acknowledged, however, that his agency found that one of its own inspectors had been carrying a 12-year-old air pack. The average shelf life of the devices is 10 years, according to manufacturers.

Meanwhile, Channel 14 TV news in Evansville, Indiana, reported that Ed Fitzgerrel, who was working as a contractor at a new coal preparation plant in Hopkins County, Kentucky, was killed on the job July 7. Hopkins County Coal LLC owns the plant. The worker was employed by General Mine Contracting in Henderson, Kentucky. John Walters, the Hopkins County coroner, said Fitzgerrel was operating a lift with a basket, got caught between the apparatus and the basket after a mechanical failure, and was fatally injured.

A 35th coal miner was killed July 18 on the surface of Hendrickson Equipment's Smith Branch No. 1 mine in Knott County. According to the *Lexington Herald-Leader,* Jason Mosley, 28, died when material from a highwall above his covered drilling machine fell and crushed the machine's cab with him inside.

The mine has been open since October 2005. According to the Associated Press, MSHA has cited the mine 10 times, most recently in June for equipment violations and for allowing loose, hazardous material to accumulate on top of pits and highwalls.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

July 31, 1981

In an act of premeditated mass murder, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin ordered his U.S.-supplied warplanes into action over Beirut July 17. The Israeli jets rained bombs on heavily populated neighborhoods in the Lebanese capital. At least 300 people were killed and 800 more wounded.

That same day, Israeli warplanes also struck at Palestinian refugee camps on the outskirts of Beirut; attacked the Mediterranean port city of Sidon; bombed portions of Lebanon's main coastal road; destroyed three bridges in southern Lebanon; and hit a Palestinian refugee camp outside Tyre. The Israeli aggression didn't stop there. As Israeli Prime Minister Begin and Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib were meeting in Jerusalem July 19, Israeli ground troops crossed the border into Lebanon.

July 30, 1956

July 23—While we were ducking for cover last Friday, July 20, under a mock nuclear bomb attack from the Soviet Union, the U.S. government was busy preparing the biggest real explosion yet undertaken on the testing grounds in the Pacific. On the morning of July 21 the red line that moves across the recording charts in nine Japanese meteorological stations went into "a veritable Saint Vitus dance." The microbarograph recorded an intensity of 0.5 milobars—twice the intensity of the 1954 H-bomb explosion.

Japan also announced another nuclear test in the Pacific...July 22. This was the tenth explosion this spring, according to the Japanese, although the U.S. government has acknowledged only two. Each of these blasts has been given wide publicity in Japan.

July 25, 1931

Paterson, scene of bitterly fought battles of the textile workers in past years, is again occupying the center of the strike field. The National Textile Workers Union has issued the call for a walkout of the silk and dye workers of the city, involving some 20,000 black and white workers of both sexes. The N.T.W. demands include the eight-hour day, an increase in wages, an end to discrimination against Negroes, young workers and women, equal pay for equal work, opposition to the speed-up system, unemployment insurance, and recognition of the Union. These demands are virtually identical with those advanced by the United Textile Workers and the Associated Silk Workers which, under the influence of the Muste group, have recently voted to amalgamate on the eve of the strike.

Pennsylvania city approves anti-immigrant measure

BY JOHN STUDER

HAZLETON, Pennsylvania, July 13—Hundreds of people from throughout the region gathered outside city hall here July 12–13, protesting an anti-immigrant ordinance proposed by Mayor Louis Barletta. The mayor says his goal is to make Hazleton "one of the most difficult places in the U.S. for illegal immigrants."

Barletta told a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing held in Philadelphia July 5 that his ordinance was needed because "many illegals were in the county solely to commit crimes" and were "draining the resources of Small Town America."

The City Council passed the measure tonight by a 4–1 margin.

The council limited speakers on the Ordinance to six each for those favoring and opposing the measure. Attendance was also sharply limited, leaving hundreds outside to protest.

The measure, parts of which were rewritten after being voted on by the council a few weeks ago, denies a business license to companies that "aid and abet" undocumented immigrants by hiring them, creates a new city agency that must review residency documents and grant a permit to anyone seeking to rent an apartment in the city, and establishes English as the official language of Hazleton.

City officials announced after the meeting that the new office responsible for issuing renters' permits will be an "English-only" office and will not provide translators.

Even though the mayor admitted that he had not received any threats, Barletta made a point of announcing that he was wearing a bulletproof vest and was accompanied by a special police detail.

Anna Arias and Agapito López led opposition to the ordinance. Both are members of the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Committee on Latino Affairs.

Arias told the council that the ordinance was "discriminatory, bigoted and racist." She said undocumented immigrants are "very important for this country."

López testified that "illegal immigrants" have been coming to this country since the day of Mayflower. "The English didn't have permission to come," he said.

"African-Americans especially did not ask to come to this country," he pointed out. Latinos, Lopez added, will not "convert to Anglos."

"We will acculturate, we will adapt to your rules, we will follow your laws, but we will never assimilate," López told the crowd. Latino immigrants, he said, plan to travel back and forth to their country of origin, making it essential to retain use of Spanish.

As the meeting progressed, hundreds protesting outside held signs and candles, chanting "*Sí, se puede*" (Yes, we can).

A small counterdemonstration across the street baited the supporters of immigrant rights. They sang, "Hit the Road, Jack" and yelled, "We want ICE," referring to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of Homeland Security. Some told the Times-Leader that they were angered by the "large quantity of illegal immigrants" they claim work at the Excel meatpacking plant in the city.

"Those are the actions of people who are afraid of something," immigrant rights protester Erica Cardenas told the media.

"If they are not legal, give them the tools they need to become legal," said Marjorie Cavanaugh, another protester, one of many who were not Latinos or immigrants.

Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pennsylvania governor, joined the protests. He was congratulated by a number in the crowd for the statement issued by his campaign opposing the Hazleton ordinance and advocating immediate legalization of all immigrants as a life-and-death question for the labor movement and all working people.

"Hart, 53, a Germantown warehouse worker, spoke to us from Hazleton, where he was in a candlelight vigil against that city's anti-immigrant mayor," Gar Joseph, a political columnist for the Philadelphia *Daily News,* reported in the July 14 edition of the paper. "He says he sees progress, calling the nationwide May 1 rallies for immigrant rights 'the first general strike in U.S. history.'"

The ordinance adopted tonight will go into effect in 60 days. Protesters said they will use this time to challenge the anti-immigrant measure, both legally and in action.

City authorities are now pushing similar measures in Escondido and San Bernardino, California; Sandwich, Massachusetts; and Avon Park and Palm Bay, Florida.



Militant photos by Bob Stanton

Above: July 13 protest outside Hazleton, Pennsylvania, city hall, where city council passed anti-immigrant ordinance. Right: Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, campaigns for legalization of immigrants at the action.

U.S. rulers work toward new policy on immigration

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—The U.S. rulers are working to overcome their differences on "immigration reform."

Ever since the House of Representatives in December and then the Senate in May approved different immigration bills, their sponsors have been working to reconcile the two approaches. The ruling class is trying to figure out how to change its immigration policy to guarantee the employers a growing pool of immigrant labor that can be superexploited, while tightening their borders.

The discussion among the wealthy on the matter reflects the impact of the huge working-class mobilizations for immigrant rights this spring. The spread and size of those actions caught the capitalists by surprise and changed politics in the United States.

Both the House and Senate immigration bills aim to tighten the border with Mexico, building miles of multilayered fencing and deploying thousands of National Guard troops and border police.

The Senate version would provide for a temporary worker program that ties the ability of these workers to stay in the United States to maintaining employment with their boss. It would also allow many undocumented immigrants living in the United States to eventually obtain permanent residency after meeting strict conditions such as paying fines, passing English-proficiency exams, and obtaining security clearances. Its main sponsors are senators John McCain, a Republican from Arizona, and Edward Kennedy, a Democrat from Massachusetts.

The House bill would make it a felony for anyone to be in the United States without proper documents or aid those who are, and would not allow legalization of the 12 million undocumented workers currently in the country. Its main sponsor is Rep. James Sensenbrenner, a Republican from Wisconsin.

Conservatives 'divided'

"No issue more deeply divides American conservatives today than immigration," said an editorial in the July 10 *Wall Street Journal.* "It's the subject on which we get the most critical mail by far, no doubt reflecting this split on the right."

The opposite page of the same issue of the *Journal* carried an open letter signed by 33 prominent conservative politicians and pundits. These included former secretary of state George Shultz; former UN ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick; former New York congressman Jack Kemp; Tamar Jacoby and John McWhorter of the Manhattan Institute; *Weekly Standard* editor William Kristol; and *New York Post* columnist John Podhoretz.

"In many respects, the way we position ourselves on immigration will determine whether we retain the mantle of majority leadership," read the statement.

The editorial and statement argued that conservatives should back a version of the Senate bill, in particular supporting provisions that would increase the number of those with residency papers, establish a guest worker program, and require immigrants to pass English and U.S. history proficiency tests.

"The most frequent criticism we hear is that a newspaper called 'The Wall Street Journal' simply wants 'cheap labor' for business," said the editorial. "This is an odd charge coming from conservatives who profess to believe in the free market…. Our own view is that a philosophy of 'free markets, and free people' includes flexible labor markets."

Giving those immigrating to the United States more chances to enter the country legally, the editorial of the big-business daily advised, would "reduce illegal immigration far more effectively than any physical barrier along the Rio Grande ever could."

Both sides hold hearings

Backers of the House version held a hearing at a Border Patrol station in San Diego July 5. California congressman Edward Royce charged that the Senate bill would tie the hands of police agencies by requiring "unprecedented and problematic consultation with Mexican authorities." Royce, a Republican, is chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation.

Senators Arlen Specter, a Republican, and Edward Kennedy hosted hearings in Philadelphia backing the Senate bill. New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg said at that hearing that the city's economy would be "a shell of itself" without immigrants and that it would "collapse" if they are deported.

President Bush weighed in on the discussion in a July 5 visit to a Dunkin' Donuts in Alexandria, Virginia. The shop is reportedly run by immigrants and its owners participate in a program that allows employers to determine if job applicants are in the country legally.

"I'm absolutely opposed to amnesty," Bush said. "But I'm also realistic to tell you that we're not going to be able to deport people who have been here, working hard and raising their families. So I want to work with Congress to come up with a rational way forward."

Local attacks on immigrant rights

Meanwhile, capitalist politicians are taking initiative on the local level to set precedents on "immigration reform." Thomas Macklin, the mayor of Avon Park, Florida, for example, is following on the footsteps of his counterpart in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in sponsoring an ordinance that would make it illegal to rent residential space to undocumented immigrants and deny permits to businesses that knowingly hire them, reported the July 10 *New York Times.*

"If we address the housing issue—make it as difficult as possible for illegals to find safe haven in Avon Park—then they are going to have to find someplace else to go," Macklin said. The mayor said he got the idea after hearing on a radio show Hazleton mayor Louis Barletta promoting that city's "Illegal Immigration Relief Act" (see article above).

Avon Park's ordinance would make English the city's official language, removing Spanish from all city documents, signs, and automated phone messages.

Mary Bauer, director of the Immigrant Justice Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center, told the press the proposed ordinance violates several laws, including the Fair Housing Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Bauer said her group might sue if the city council passes the ordinance.

Massachusetts petitioning

Continued from front page

here at the Militant Labor Forum yesterday.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign began petitioning July 15 to collect more than 4,000 signatures to place Garza on the ballot in the November election. Garza, 47, is a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE HERE Local 187. She is joined on the SWP ticket by John Hawkins, a Boston area meat cutter, who is the party's candidate for Massachusetts governor.

Hawkins, a long-time union militant and fighter for Black rights, spoke out on the fall of a concrete ceiling panel in one of Boston's highway tunnels that killed Milena Del Valle July 10. "Gov. Willard Romney, turnpike administrators, and state and local Democratic and Republican party politicians all share responsibility for Del Valle's death," he said. "They were all aware of the shortcuts and substandard materials being used to maximize profits throughout the Big Dig construction project.

"Del Valle's death was unnecessary. It was as much the result of the drive for profit as the deaths of 34 miners in U.S. coal mines this year," said Hawkins. "Working people need strong unions to exercise control over the workplace, including safety committees with the power to shut down unsafe jobs. Supporting efforts to unionize and use union power effectively is at the heart of the socialist campaign platform."

Hawkins and Garza have joined mobilizations to demand legalization of immigrants. "We are campaigning for legislation that would grant immediate and unconditional residency to all the undocumented," Garza said. "And we oppose all moves to use state and local cops to enforce immigration laws. Their only purpose is to target a section of working people and enforce second-class status to superexploit them and drag down wages and working conditions for all."

The movement for legalization of immigrants that spread across the country this spring, Hawkins said, "has put all working people in a better position to fight to organize trade unions and use union power to defend our interests."

Campaign supporters plan to collect more than 4,000 signatures, double the requirement, by July 28 to put Garza on the ballot. As of July 16, some 1,300 people had signed the socialists' petition.



Militant/Sara Lobman

Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Massachusetts' 8th Congressional District, petitions in Boston July 15 for a spot on the November ballot.

N.Y. Socialist Workers campaign: halt assault on Lebanon

Continued from front page

protest the ongoing bombing of Lebanon and attack on Gaza.

Calero condemned Washington's support for Tel Aviv's aggression. "We also call for an end to the U.S.-led threats against Iran and Syria, and for the withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan," he said, "not in two years, not in six months, but now!" Washington and the Democrats and Republicans, "the twin capitalist parties, are acting to defend the profit interests of the tiny handful of superwealthy families they represent."

In contrast, the Democratic and Republican candidates in the state reiterated their support for the Israeli government's actions.

Sen. Hillary Clinton, who is running for re-election, spoke at a rabidly pro-war "stand with Israel" rally at the United Nations July 17. She advocated "whatever steps are necessary" to defend Tel Aviv's assault on Lebanon and Gaza in order to "send a message to Hamas, Hezbollah, to the Syrians, to the Iranians," calling them "the new totalitarians of the 21st century."

Republican senatorial contender Kathleen McFarland said at a July 13 news conference that the Israeli government had a right to defend itself, referring to its bombing of Lebanon, the *New York Times* reported.

Socialist campaigners have taken the working-class perspective across New York City, Albany, Buffalo, and other cities in the state as they petition to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

"Yes, I'll sign. I agree with you 100 percent on getting the troops out of there now. My son is in Baghdad. They shouldn't be in Iraq," said Sheila Powell as she and a friend added their names to a petition on a street corner in Harlem July 16.

After the first nine days of petitioning, Socialist Workers canvassers in New York have collected some 16,000 signatures. By July 23 they plan to get 30,000, double the requirement, to gain ballot status for the working-class alternative to the Democrats, Republicans, and other capitalist parties.

The Socialist Workers are running Róger Calero for U.S. Senate and Maura DeLuca for New York governor (for other socialist candidates in the state see list on this page).

Campaigning in Sunset Park, a Brooklyn neighborhood with a large Mexican-born population, Calero told the *Militant* that a good number of workers he spoke to had taken part in the large demonstrations in the spring to demand legalization of undocumented immigrants. "They were glad to hear that our campaign advocates immediate, unconditional permanent residency for all the undocumented," he said.

Marshall Lambie, a campaigner for the SWP ticket, added, "I met workers who at first argued that 'illegals take American jobs.' When I explained how the bosses use immigration laws to divide working people and that, no matter where we were born, we have to fight together, some people appreciated the discussion and began to consider the issue from that point of view."

Matilda Hernandez, a high school student and Young Socialist who is on the full-time petitioning team in New York, said a lot of people readily signed to put the SWP candidates on the ballot after seeing the team's sign protesting the U.S.-backed Israeli invasion of Lebanon. One person who approached them, however, said he opposed the Israeli government but then made a Jew-baiting remark. "We made it clear our campaign opposes Jew-hatred, and he walked away," Hernandez said.

The socialists explain that Washington's support for Tel Aviv's aggression and the war in Iraq stems not from "Jewish influence" but from the interests of U.S. imperialism and its need to assert its profit drive worldwide.

Many people grabbed a pen to sign the petition for the Sociialist Workers Party candidates when they saw that the SWP election platform backs workers defending their union or organizing a union in face of employer attacks.

"I have relatives who are transit workers, and I didn't like the way the union was treated when they were on strike," said Anthony Johnson, a hospital worker in Harlem. He remembered how, during the December transit strike here, Republican mayor Michael Bloomberg smeared the union members as "thugs" and how Democratic attorney general Eliot Spitzer, now running for governor, supported the jailing of the union president.

"It's good to see real pro-union candidates," Johnson said.

Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2006

Florida	Bernie Senter, U.S. Senate Omari Musa, Governor Margaret Trowe, U.S. Congr., 18th CD Eric Simpson, U.S. Congr., 17th CD Ruth Robinett, Fl. State Rep. D. 109
Iowa	Diana Newberry, Governor Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor Frank Forrestal, Sec'y of Agriculture Helen Meyers, U.S. Congr., 3rd CD
Massachusetts	John Hawkins, Governor Laura Garza, U.S. Congr., 8th CD
Minnesota	Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Senate Brian Taylor, Governor Nelson Gonzalez, Lt. Governor Tom Fiske, U.S. Congr., 4th CD Julian Santana, U.S. Congr., 5th CD
New Jersey	Angela Lariscy, U.S. Senate* Brian Williams, U.S. Congr., 13th CD*
New York	Róger Calero, U.S. Senate Maura DeLuca, Governor Ben O'Shaughnessy, Lt. Governor Martín Koppel, Attorney General Willie Cotton, State Comptroller Nancy Boyasko, U.S. Congr., 11th CD
Pennsylvania	Ved Dookhun, U.S. Senate Osborne Hart, Governor Tony Lane, Lt. Governor Cindy Jaquith, U.S. Congr., 14th CD John Staggs, Pa. State Rep. D. 198
Texas	Amanda Ulman, U.S. Senate José Aravena, Governor Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Congr., 18th CD
Washington	David Rosenfeld, U.S. Senate Connie Allen, U.S. Congr., 7th CD
Wash., D.C.	Sam Manuel, Mayor Seth Dellinger, City Council At-Large Janice Lynn, House Delegate

*Confirmed on ballot

Help 'Militant' get second digital camera

This week, *Militant* reporters are in Cuba to cover political developments in that country. At the same time, editorial volunteer Arrin Hawkins has gone to Mississippi to cover the mobilizations by supporters of women's right to choose abortion in defense of the state's sole abortion clinic in Jackson (see article on front page). This is one of many recent occasions where overlapping reporting trips have necessitated more than one camera to take photos that can be sent to the paper electronically in the heat of struggle. The *Militant* has had only one digital camera. Please help us pay for a second, which costs $2,500. Send your contribution to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018, and earmark your donation "camera fund."

Cuba's contribution to Africa's freedom struggle

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Below is an excerpt from Nelson Mandela Speaks, *one of Pathfinder's books of the month for July. The address that follows was given to a rally of tens of thousands in Matanzas, Cuba, during a trip by Mandela to five Latin American and Caribbean countries. The rally on July 26, 1991, marked the 38th anniversary of the opening of the Cuban Revolution. Speaking alongside Mandela was Cuban president Fidel Castro, who awarded Mandela the José Martí medal, the highest honor bestowed by the Cuban government. The award is named for one of the principal leaders of Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain, killed in battle in 1895.*



Militant/Mary-Alice Waters

African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela, and Cuban president Fidel Castro, at July 26, 1991, rally in Matanzas, Cuba.

BY NELSON MANDELA

First secretary of the Communist Party, president of the Council of State and of the government of Cuba, president of the socialist republic of Cuba, commander-in-chief, Comrade Fidel Castro;

Cuban internationalists, who have done so much to free our continent; Cuban people; comrades and friends:

It is a great pleasure and honor to be present here today, especially on so important a day in the revolutionary history of the Cuban people. Today Cuba commemorates the thirty-eighth anniversary of the storming of the Moncada. Without Moncada the *Granma* expedition, the struggle in the Sierra Maestra, and the extraordinary victory of January 1, 1959, would never have occurred.[1]

Today this is revolutionary Cuba, internationalist Cuba, the country that has done so much for the peoples of Africa.

We have long wanted to visit your country and express the many feelings that we have about the Cuban revolution, about the role of Cuba in Africa, southern Africa, and the world.

The Cuban people hold a special place in the hearts of the people of Africa. The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom, and justice, unparalleled for its principled and selfless character.

From its earliest days the Cuban revolution has itself been a source of inspiration to all freedom-loving people. We admire the sacrifices of the Cuban people in maintaining their independence and sovereignty in the face of a vicious imperialist-orchestrated campaign to destroy the impressive gains made in the Cuban revolution.

We too want to control our own destiny. We are determined that the people of South Africa will make their future and that they will continue to exercise their full democratic rights after liberation from apartheid. We do not want popular participation to cease at the moment when apartheid goes. We want to have the moment of liberation open the way to ever-deepening democracy.

We admire the achievements of the Cuban revolution in the sphere of social welfare. We note the transformation from a country of imposed backwardness to universal literacy. We acknowledge your advances in the fields of health, education, and science.

There are many things we learn from your experience. In particular we are moved by your affirmation of the historical connection to the continent and people of Africa.

Your consistent commitment to the systematic eradication of racism is unparalleled.

But the most important lesson that you have for us is that no matter what the odds, no matter under what difficulties you have had to struggle, there can be no surrender! It is a case of freedom or death!

I know that your country is experiencing many difficulties now, but we have confidence that the resilient people of Cuba will overcome these as they have helped other countries overcome theirs.

We know that the revolutionary spirit of today was started long ago and that its spirit was kindled by many early fighters for Cuban freedom, and indeed for freedom of all suffering under imperialist domination.

We too are also inspired by the life and example of José Martí, who is not only a Cuban and Latin American hero but justly honored by all who struggle to be free.

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[1]Fidel Castro led an attack on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba on July 26, 1953, marking the beginning of the revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista. After the attack's failure, Batista's forces massacred more than fifty of the captured revolutionaries. On December 2, 1956, eighty-two revolutionary combatants led by Castro landed in southeastern Cuba on the boat *Granma*, following a seven-day journey from Mexico. Despite initial setbacks, the guerrilla fighters were able to establish a base for the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra mountains, from which they led the workers and peasants in the revolutionary war against the dictatorship. On January 1, 1959, in the face of the Rebel Army's advances, Batista fled the country and the revolution triumphed amid a general strike and massive popular mobilizations.

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STATEMENT BY SWP CANDIDATES

Stop bombing of Lebanon!

Continued from front page

death and destruction the Israeli military has rained on neighborhoods of Beirut and southern Lebanon. The attackers have killed hundreds, wounded more than 1,000, and driven half a million people from their homes. They have bombed the Beirut airport, the country's ports, and hundreds of roads and bridges, imposing a sea, air, and land blockade on the population. At the same time, Tel Aviv has unleashed a bloody assault on Palestinians in Gaza, killing nearly 100 people so far, and arresting dozens of members of Hamas, including legislators and government ministers.

The pretext for the assault is Tel Aviv's demand that the Lebanese group Hezbollah release two Israeli soldiers and that Hamas free another one captured recently. The goal of Israel's capitalist rulers, however, is to decimate these two organizations. In so doing, they seek to consolidate their control over the occupied Palestinian territories and to assert their ability to intervene in Lebanon at will.

Far from bringing peace, such moves only embolden the imperialist rulers, from Washington to Paris, to escalate their military threats against Syria and Iran. The Israeli state represents the interests of a tiny capitalist ruling class, not of Jewish working people. As long as Israel exists there will be no peace, because that state is founded on the dispossession of the Palestinian people. The only future for all working people in the region is to support the historic struggle of the Palestinian people for national self-determination—for a democratic, secular Palestine.

Working people should also reject proposals for a United Nations "peacekeeping" force in Lebanon, which Israeli officials have indicated they may accept. In fact, there is already a 2,000-strong UN-sponsored force in southern Lebanon. For 28 years its record has been to give cover to Israeli aggression.

Washington's support for Tel Aviv's assault is completely bipartisan, promoted by politicians from Sen. Hillary Clinton to President George Bush. The reason is that the U.S. ruling capitalist families have vested interests in the Mideast, not because Israel somehow dictates policy to the White House, as proponents of reactionary conspiracy theories have argued. Israel's role as a junior imperialist policeman in the region has generally served the interests of finance capital—from Wall Street to London. Under the banner of the "global war on terrorism," the U.S. rulers seek to defend their class interests in the Mideast and worldwide. Because of the tendency of their profit rates to decline, they are driven to expand their control of markets and natural resources, and to edge out their imperialist competitors such as Paris and Berlin. That is why they are pressing to get all the states in the region to get in line or, as in the case of Iran and Syria, be targeted for attack.

It's in the interests of working people to demand: Stop the bombing! All Israeli troops out of Lebanon! End the assault on Gaza! Free all the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners now!

Voting rights at center of NAACP convention

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and full voting rights for residents of this city were the main themes of the 97th national convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) that took place here July 15–20.

In his first convention address the association's new president, Bruce Gordon, said the NAACP would call upon Blacks not to shop at stores that don't "hire and invest in our community."

The House of Representatives renewed the Act on July 13 by a vote of 390–33. It was passed after several restrictive amendments were defeated. The amendments included lifting a requirement that the Justice Department review and approve any changes in voting procedures in states covered by the law. Another would have ended a requirement for bilingual ballots in districts with a high number of voters for whom English is not their first language.

One session of the convention opened with a rally to demand that the Senate renew the Voting Rights Act with no restrictions. Participants then took buses to the capital to lobby senators.

Gordon called on Blacks to stop shopping at Target stores because the company refused to respond to an NAACP questionnaire survey used by the association to rate companies. "If corporations spend their money on us, we'll spend our money with those corporations," he said.

Gordon became president of the NAACP a year ago. He is a former executive at Verizon.

Other speakers at the convention included House of Representative members Jesse Jackson Jr., Charles Rangel, and Nancy Pelosi; and senators Harry Reid, Edward Kennedy, Barak Obama, and Hillary Clinton.

President George Bush, who has not accepted an invitation to address an NAACP convention since he was a candidate in 2000, was also scheduled to speak this year.

LETTERS

Attica 35 years ago

Your younger readers may not recall the prison uprising in Attica, New York, in September 1971. [See "Why Attica prison exploded in 1971" in June 7, 2004, *Militant.* –Editor] The heroic actions of the prisoners inspired oppressed peoples all over the world.

In memory and tribute to the prisoners who were brutally murdered by Gov. Rockefeller's thugs, here is part of a statement issued by the prisoners during the revolt:

"We are men! We are not beasts and do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. The entire prison population has set forth to change forever the ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of prisoners here and throughout the United States. What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed."

R. B.
by e-mail

Crisis in Thailand

I just returned from a trip to Bangkok, Thailand. The capitalists there appear fearsome of an impending "economic and social crisis" despite the quantity of industrial development and exports.

The executive director of Bangkok Bank said he expected economic instability and environmental problems to emerge "quickly and dramatically."

The press described the degradation of water supplies, massive deforestation, lack of electrification in major urban and rural areas, and absence of sewage treatment facilities in many cities with waste going straight to the ocean.

So much for the economic miracle of this "emerging nation" that will never emerge under capitalism from imperialist domination.

Mark Friedman
Los Angeles, California

Selections from Marx

I'd like to see more selections from Karl Marx and comparing it with today. Also more reviews of movies.

Charles Wolfseld
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

'Sir! No Sir!'

How about a review of the documentary film *Sir! No Sir!?* It could provide a good example of a revolutionary vs. liberal/pacifist positions.

Howard Petrick
San Francisco, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Chicago march



Militant/Christian Castro

Some 30,000 people march in Chicago July 19 to protest deportations and demand legalization of immigrants.

Continued from front page

few months ago and are facing deportation hearings. They were joined by immigrant workers from families that have been separated by deportations.

Some of the organizers, especially Rafael Pulido, known as "El Pistolero," a popular radio talk show host here, had called for protesters to carry U.S. flags. While many of these flags were visible through the crowd, as the march proceeded flags from Mexico and several other Latin American countries kept appearing.

One group of about 30 youth, most of them Muslims, wore white T-shirts with the slogan, "Yes to legalization; Yes to moratorium; Sí se puede." La Rosita, a butcher shop, gave out hundreds of white T-shirts with the slogan, "Yes to legalization, no to discrimination."

Leonel, 28, a worker from Mexico who asked that his last name not be used, said he recently moved here from Washington, D.C., where he had participated in protests for immigrant rights. "These marches are very important," he said. "I work at a small company. All six of us took the day off to come here."

Centro Sin Fronteras, a well-known immigrant rights group, called the protest, along with Pulido, with two weeks notice. As word about the action spread, it generated discussion among working people. It soon won broad sponsorship from religious and community groups, including the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the March 10 Committee. The latter is the umbrella organization that called the earlier huge protests here. It includes the UNITE HERE union, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 881, Casa Michoacan, and other groups.

The police estimated the size of the action at 10,000. But it was certainly larger. It spread at least over 10 full city blocks. Due to extreme heat today, many left at the end and did not stay for the final rally.

Gabriel Velasquez, a worker at Stampede Meat, a large packing plant here, went to work for a few hours before the march. "A few people didn't go to work at all but I went in to see who else was going to leave and several decided to come out," he said. "I also brought my little daughter with me."

The day before the march the ending rally site was changed to Grant Park in downtown Chicago after city cops refused to allow protesters to go to Federal Plaza.

Many of the rally speakers blamed Republican politicians for the government's failure to pass an "immigration reform" bill. None of the speakers referred to support by Democratic politicians for stepped-up border patrols and other anti-working-class provisions of the immigration bills passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives (see article on page 6).

Congressman Luis Gutierrez called for a moratorium on immigration raids "until an immigration reform law is passed."

Other speakers included Tom Balanoff, president of Service Employees International Union Local 1; and Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers.

In her talk, Emma Lozano from Centro Sin Fronteras invited everyone to go to the immigration court at 9:00 a.m. on July 31 to support the IFCO workers who will appear before an immigration judge that day for their deportation hearing.

Forthcoming activities in Chicago publicized today include a National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention sponsored by the March 10 Committee. Scheduled for August 11–13, it is open to all supporters of legalization of immigrants from across the country. The March 10 Committee is backing a call for more protests for immigrant rights throughout the United States on Labor Day weekend, September 2–4.